



CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

# NEWS Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIER KILLED IN IRAQ**

Sergeant Marcelino Ronald Corniel, 23, of La Puente, Calif., died in Baghdad, Iraq on Dec. 31 as a result of injuries sustained during combat operations. He was killed by indirect fire while conducting a dismounted security patrol in his unit's area of operation South of Baghdad. He was assigned to the California National Guard's Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, in Fullerton.

Sergeant Corniel was born on Oct. 21, 1982. He enlisted into the United States Marine Corps on Jul. 31, 2000 and served four years with the Second Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Marines.

Following his honorable discharge from the Marine Corps, he was assigned to the Inactive Ready Reserve and settled in La Puente, California, where "Ronnie" focused on advancing his education and providing for his family. Sergeant Corniel was known for his encyclopedic knowledge of small arms, and planned on opening a gun store upon return to the United States.

He joined the California National Guard on Jun. 17, 2005 as an Infantryman and immediately volunteered to deploy to Iraq as an individual replacement for the 1-184<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Upon his arrival in Iraq in October of 2005, he became a member of Alpha Company, 1-184<sup>th</sup> Infantry. He was quickly adopted as a member of the team, with his professionalism and experience winning the appreciation and admiration of his fellow soldiers and leaders alike.

Corniel was posthumously promoted from the rank of Corporal to Sergeant and will be awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, the National Defense Ribbon, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.